



UNIVERSITI PUTRA MALAYSIA

**MICROSATELLITE DEVELOPMENT AND CROSS SPECIES
AMPLIFICATION FOR CHARACTERIZATION OF HATCHERY- BRED
*Probarbus jullieni***

NAGHMEH GHIASI

FBSB 2009 8

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*Probarbus jullieni***

By

NAGHMEH GHIASI

**Thesis Submitted to the School of Graduate Studies, Universiti Putra Malaysia,
in Fulfilment of the Requirement for the Degree of Master of Science**

May 2009

*Specially dedicated to,
My beloved Father, Mother and my dear sister Somayeh for their
invaluable love, understanding, tolerance, sacrifice, moral support*



Abstract of thesis presented to the Senate of University Putra Malaysia in fulfilment of the requirement for the degree of Master of Science

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Chairman: Professor Datin Paduka Khatijah Bt Mohd Yusoff, PhD

Faculty: Biotechnology and Biomolecular Science

Probarbus jullieni is a freshwater ray-finned fish species, found in the rivers of Peninsular Malaysia, it is locally known in Malaysia as Ikan Temoleh. Its natural populations are under serious long-term decline making it to be listed by the International Union for the Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources (IUCN) Red List as 'Endangered' so the conservation status of *P. jullieni* prompted conservationists to plan some conservation programs to rescue this species.

Conservation of genetic resources is an essential component of any species management program and documenting the genetic make up of both natural and farm stocks of the species is an effective strategy to guide management decision for conservation. To this aim, microsatellite markers which have a high degree of polymorphism can be useful in providing valuable information for characterizing populations.

The present study had three major objectives: Detection of genetic variation in hatchery bred *P. jullieni* using microsatellite markers which developed for *P. jullieni* and also cross-amplification of microsatellite primers for closely related species and the second objective is identification and isolation of microsatellite loci in *P. jullieni* and the third one is identification of a sex-specific genomic DNA marker in *P. jullieni* by testing sex-associated markers of other fish species.

Two hatchery populations of *P. jullieni* (Temoleh Siam and Temoleh Tarat) were used in this research. Sixteen microsatellite DNA markers comprising nine MFW and seven SYK primer pairs which were developed for the common carp *Cyprinus carpio* L. and *Tor tambroides*, respectively were tested for cross-amplification of microsatellite loci in the two populations of *P. jullieni*. Thirteen out of these 16 microsatellite primer pairs could detect microsatellites in *P. jullieni* indicating that they can be useful in studying the population structure of the fish species. In addition, six microsatellite DNA markers (Proju primers) which were developed for the seven-line barb (*P. jullieni*) of the Mekong River were used to determine and compare the genetic structure of these two populations of *P. jullieni*.

These 22 primers produced 25 microsatellite loci in Temoleh Siam (ST) and 29 microsatellite loci in Tarat (T) population. The percentage of polymorphic loci was 72% in ST and 56% in T population, the number of observed allele per polymorphic locus ranged from two to six for the ST population and from two to five for the T population. The ST population showed a higher mean effective allele number (1.62) than the T population (1.35). The mean observed heterozygosity (H_o) was higher than the expected heterozygosity (H_e) in both populations and in

the Siam population it was higher than the Tarat population. The mean F_{IS} in both populations were negative, indicating there is no loss of variability. Eight and three loci showed significant departures from Hardy-Weinberg Equilibrium (HWE) for the ST and T populations, respectively. The analysis of molecular variance (AMOVA) based on 11 polymorphic common loci investigated, showed that 7.31% of the variations were among populations and 92.69% of the variations were within populations. The value of population pairwise F_{ST} in this study was 0.07, which indicated moderate genetic differentiation between these two populations of *P. jullieni*.

In this study ten new microsatellite loci were isolated from *P. jullieni* using a Random Amplified Microsatellites (RAMs) based technique. Five out of ten were polymorphic when tested on *P. jullieni*'s individuals.

In order to find a sex-associated marker for estimating sex-ratio in *P. jullieni* populations, two sex-associated primer pairs consisting of a sex specific primer set for medaka (*Oryzias latipes*) and a sex-associated marker for Asian arowana (*Scleropages formosus*) fish, were tested on the male and female samples of *P. jullieni*. The results showed similar banding profile between all the male and female samples. Therefore, these sex-associated DNA markers were unable to detect any differences between the males and females of *P. jullieni* fish.

Abstrak tesis yang dikemukakan kepada Senat Universiti Putra Malaysia sebagai memenuhi keperluan untuk ijazah Master Sains

**PEMBANGUNAN MIKROSATELIT DAN AMPLIFIKASI SILANG SPESIES
UNTUK PENCIRIAN *Probarbus jullieni* YANG-DITERNAK**

Oleh

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May 2009

Pengerusi: Profesor Datin Paduka Dr. Khatijah Mohd Yusoff

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Probarbus jullieni adalah spesies ikan air tawar yang bersirip-rawan terdapat di sungai di Semenanjung Malaysia. Ia dikenali oleh penduduk tempatan sebagai Ikan Temoleh. Populasinya di alam semulajadi semakin brekurangan dan serius dan ini telah menyebabkan ianya disenaraikan di dalam Senarai Merah sebagai ‘Terancam’ oleh International Union for the Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources (IUCN), maka status pemuliharaan *P. jullieni* ini telah mencetuskan perancangan beberapa program pemuliharaan untuk menyelamatkan spesies ini.

Pemuliharaan sumber genetik adalah komponen penting dalam mana-mana program pengurusan spesies dan mendokumentasikan kandungan genetik bagi stok semulajadi dan ternakan sesuatu spesies merupakan satu strategi yang efektif untuk memimpin keputusan di pihak pengurusan. Untuk mencapai matlamat ini, penanda mikrosatelit yang mempunyai tahap polimorfisme yang tinggi adalah sangat berguna bagi pencirian populasi.

Kajian ini mempunyai tiga objektif utama: Untuk mengesan variasi genetik pada baka ternakan *P. jullieni* dengan menggunakan penand mikrosatelit yang dibangunkan untuk *P. jullieni* dan juga amplifikasi-silang penandan mikrosatelit untuk spesies yang mempunyai perhubungan rapat dengannya dan objektif kedua adalah untuk mengenali dan memencilkan penanda mikrosatelit bagi *P. jullieni* dan ketiga adalah untuk mengenali penanda jantina khusus genomik DNA pada *P. jullieni* dengan menguji penanda jantina daripada spesies ikan berlainan.

Dua populasi dari pusat penetasan *P. jullieni* (Temoleh Siam dan Temoleh Tarat) telah digunakan dalam kajian ini. Enam belas penanda DNA mikrosatelit yang mengandungi sembilan pasang primer MFW dan tujuh pasang primer SYK yang telah dibinakan untuk kap biasa, *Cyprinus carpio L.* dan *Tor tambroides*, masing-masing telah diuji untuk amplifikasi-silang lokus mikrosatelit pada kedua-dua populasi *P. jullieni* tersebut. Tiga belas daripada 16 pasang primer ini berjaya mengesan mikrosatelit dalam *P. jullieni*, menunjukkan bahawa mereka boleh digunakan bagi mengkaji struktur populasi *P. jullieni*. Di samping itu, enam penanda mikrosatelit (Proju primers) yang dibangun untuk barb tujuh-garis (*P. jullieni*) dari Sungai Mekong telah digunakan untuk menentukan dan membandingkan struktur genetik pada kedua-dua populasi *P. jullieni* ini.

Dua puluh dua penanda ini telah menghasilkan 25 lokus mikrosatelit untuk Temoleh Siam (ST) dan 29 lokus mikrosatelit untuk populasi Tarat (T). Peratusan lokus polimorfik adalah 72% dalam ST dan 56% dalam populasi T. Jumlah alel diperhatikan per lokus polimorfik berada dalam julat dua hingga enam untuk populasi ST dan dari dua hingga lima untuk populasi T. Populasi ST menunjukkan

nilai purata alel efektif (1.62) berbanding populasi T (1.35). Purata heterozigositi pemerhatian (H_o) adalah lebih tinggi daripada heterozigositi jangkaan (H_e) pada kedua-dua populasi dan pada populasi Siam lebih tinggi dari populasi T. Purata F_{IS} untuk kedua-dua populasi adalah negatif, menandakan tiada kehilangan kepelbagaian. Sebelas lokus menunjukkan kelainan daripada persamaan Hardy-Weinberg (HWE) masing-masing, pada populasi ST dan T. Analisis varians molekul (AMOVA) berdasarkan pada 11 loci polimorfik lazim yang dikaji menunjukkan bahawa 7.31% varian adalah di kalangan populasi dan 92.69% adalah di dalam populasi. Nilai population Pairwise F dalam kajian ini adalah 0.07, dimana ini menunjukkan kesederhanaan dalam perbezaan genetik antara dua populasi *P. jullieni*.

Dalam kajian ini, sepuluh lokus mikrosatelit baru telah dipencilkan daripada *P. jullieni* melalui kaedah berasaskan Amplifikasi Mikrosatelit Rawak (RAMs). Lima daripada sepuluh adalah polimorfik apabila diuji pada individu *P. Jullieni*.

Untuk mengenalpasti sesuatu penanda jantina bagi menentukan nisbah jantina dalam populasi *P. jullieni*, dua pasang primer berkenaan-jantina yang mengandungi set primer jantina untuk medaka (*Oryzias latipes*) dan penanda jantina untuk ikan arowana Asia (*Scleropages formosus*), telah diuji ke atas sampel jantan dan betina *P. jullieni*. Keputusan menunjukkan profil jalur yang sama antara kesemua sampel jantan dan betina. Maka penanda jantina tersebut gagal untuk membezakan antara jantan dan betina *P. jullieni*.

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This thesis is submitted to the Senate of Universiti Putra Malaysia and has been accepted as fulfilment of requirement for degree of Master of Science .The members of the Supervisory Committee are as follows:

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DECLARATION

I hereby declare that the thesis is based on my original work except for quotations and citations which have been duly acknowledged. I also declare that it has not been previously or concurrently submitted for any other degree at UPM or other institutions.

NAGHMEH GHIASI

Date: 19/6/2009

TABLE OF CONTENTS

	Page
ABSTRACT	iii
ABSTRAK	vi
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS	ix
APPROVAL	xi
DECLARATION	xii
LIST OF TABLES	xv
LIST OF FIGURES	xvii
LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS	xix

CHAPTER

1	INTRODUCTION	1
2	LITERATURE REVIEW	3
	2.1 <i>Probarbus jullieni</i>	3
	2.1.1 Taxonomy	3
	2.1.2 Habitat and distribution	4
	2.1.3 Morphology and biology	4
	2.2 Importance of study on <i>Probarbus jullieni</i>	5
	2.3 Genetic issues in the conservation of endangered species	6
	2.4 Molecular marker in aquaculture	7
	2.5 Microsatellite	12
	2.5.1 Microsatellite in fish	13
	2.6 Microsatellite isolation	15
	2.6.1 Randomly Amplified Microsatellites (RAMs)	16
	2.6.2 Cross -species amplification of microsatellite	17
	2.7 Sex determination in fish	18
	2.7.1 Sex determining genes	19
	2.8 DNA markers in sex determination	20
3	DETECTION OF GENETIC VARIATION IN HATCHERY BRED <i>P. jullieni</i> USING MICROSATELLITE MARKERS	22
	3.1 Introduction	22
	3.2 Methodology	24
	3.2.1 Sample collection for population study	24
	3.2.2 Preparation of genomic DNA	25
	3.2.3 Microsatellite primers	27
	3.2.4 PCR optimization	30
	3.2.5 Gel electrophoresis	33
	3.2.6 Determination of microsatellite repeats	33
	3.2.7 Gel excision and purification	34
	3.2.8 Sequencing and screening of microsatellite loci	35
	3.2.9 Interpretation of microsatellite loci	35
	3.2.10 Statistical analysis	35

3.3	Results	42
3.3.1	PCR optimization	42
3.3.2	Sequencing results of cross amplification microsatellite	42
3.3.3	BLAST analysis	49
3.3.4	Statistical analysis	49
3.4	Discussion	72
3.5	Conclusion	79
4	ISOLATION OF MICROSATELLITE LOCI in <i>Probarbus jullieni</i>	80
4.1	Introduction	80
4.2	Methodology	81
4.2.1	Amplification by 5' anchored PCR	81
4.2.2	Cloning of the PCR products	83
4.2.3	Plasmid extraction	84
4.2.4	DNA sequencing	85
4.2.5	Submission of DNA sequencing to GenBank	85
4.2.6	Designing of microsatellite primer pairs	86
4.2.7	Microsatellite Amplification	87
4.3	Results	87
4.3.1	Isolation of microsatellites using RAMs primer	87
4.3.2	Testing of designed microsatellites markers on <i>P. jullieni</i> 's individuals	90
4.4	Discussion	92
4.5	Conclusion	94
5	SEX DETERMINATION IN <i>P. jullieni</i>	95
5.1	Introduction	95
5.2	Methodology	97
5.2.1	Sample collection	97
5.2.2	DNA extraction	97
5.2.3	Sex-associated primers	98
5.2.4	PCR amplification	98
5.2.5	Gel electrophoresis	99
5.3	Results	100
5.4	Discussion	102
5.5	Conclusion	103
6	GENERAL DISCUSSION	104
7	CONCLUSIONS	106
	REFERENCES	108
	APPENDICES	120
	BIODATA OF STUDENT	123
	LIST OF PUBLICATIONS	124

LIST OF TABLES

Table	Page
2.1 Comparison of different molecular markers	11
2.2 Different combinations of microsatellite repeats	13
3.1 Microsatellite primer pairs developed for <i>P. jullieni</i>	28
3.2 Microsatellite primer pairs of common carp tested on <i>P. jullieni</i>	29
3.3 Microsatellite primer pairs of <i>Tor tambroides</i> tested on <i>P. jullieni</i>	30
3.4 Final concentrations of reagents for the PCR reaction	32
3.5 The PCR protocol used for Proju primers	32
3.6 The Touchdown PCR protocol used for cross-amplification primers	32
3.7 Microsatellite primer pairs of common carp tested on <i>P. jullieni</i>	47
3.8 Microsatellite primer pairs of <i>Tor tambroides</i> tested on <i>P. jullieni</i>	49
3.9 BLAST analysis results of cross-amplification microsatellites in <i>P. jullieni</i>	50
3.10 Loci only amplified in the T population	51
3.11 Polymorphisms of microsatellite loci in the ST and T populations of <i>P. jullieni</i>	52
3.12 The observed and effective number of alleles for 25 microsatellite loci in the ST and T populations	59
3.13 Allele frequencies of 25 common microsatellite loci in ST and T populations of <i>P. jullieni</i>	60
3.14 Levels of heterozygosity of microsatellite loci in <i>P. jullieni</i>	66
3.15 AMOVA results of the ST and T populations.	71
3.16 Population pairwise F_{ST}	72
3.17 The interpretation of F_{ST} values	78
4.1 List of Random Amplified Microsatellites (RAMs) primers	82

4.2	The designed microsatellite primer pairs for <i>P. jullieni</i>	89
5.1	Sex-associated primer sequences used in this study	98
5.2	PCR protocol for testing arowana sex-associated STS marker on <i>P. jullieni</i>	99
5.3	PCR protocol for testing medaka sex specific DNA marker on <i>P. jullieni</i>	100



LIST OF FIGURES

Figure	Page
2.1 Morphology of <i>P. jullieni</i> (lateral view)	4
3.1 A comparison of the banding profiles obtained using primer pair SYK8 on (a) 8% polyacrylamide gel and on (b) 4% MetaPhor® agarose gel	43
3.2 PCR banding pattern of primer MFW15 on 4%metaphor gel (a)before purification, (b) after purification	44
3.3 Microsatellite sequence produced by the ABI PRISM 377 DNA Sequencer. (A) Shows CA microsatellite repeats obtained from cross-amplification using primer SYK2, (B) Shows TG microsatellite repeats obtained from cross-amplification using primer SYK9	45
3.4 Microsatellite sequence produced by the ABI PRISM 377 DNA Sequencer. (A) Shows TC microsatellite repeats obtained from cross-amplification using primer MFW19, (B) Shows CA microsatellite repeats obtained from cross-amplification using primer MFW17	46
3.5 Microsatellite banding profile of <i>P. jullieni</i> samples from ST population using primer pair SYK1	53
3.6 Microsatellite banding profile of <i>P. jullieni</i> samples from T population using primer pair SYK1	53
3.7 Microsatellite banding profile of <i>P. jullieni</i> samples from ST population using primer pair SYK5	54
3.8 Microsatellite banding profile of <i>P. jullieni</i> samples from T population using primer pair SYK5	54
3.9 Microsatellite banding profile of <i>P. jullieni</i> samples from ST population using primer pair MFW19	55
3.10 Microsatellite banding profile of <i>P. jullieni</i> samples from T population using primer pair MFW19	55
3.11 Microsatellite banding profile of <i>P. jullieni</i> samples from ST population using primer pair Proju 3	56
3.12 Microsatellite banding profile of <i>P. jullieni</i> samples from T population using primer pair Proju 3	56

3.13	Microsatellite banding profile of <i>P. jullieni</i> samples from ST population using primer pair Proju 6	57
3.14	Microsatellite banding profile of <i>P. jullieni</i> samples from T population using primer pair Proju 6	57
4.1	2% agarose gel electrophoresis of PCR products obtained from primer Bp8 and primer Vj2	88
4.2	Plasmid of 5' anchored PCR clones from Bp8 prime	88
4.3	Microsatellite banding profile of <i>P. jullieni</i> samples using primer pair STCO4-1A	91
4.4	Microsatellite banding profile of <i>P. jullieni</i> samples using primer pair STCO4-1C	91
4.5	Microsatellite banding profile of <i>P. jullieni</i> samples using primer pair STCO4-1D	92
5.1	Banding profile of sex-specific (DMT) primer in <i>P. jullieni</i> male and female samples	101
5.2	Banding profile of sex-associated STS marker in <i>P. jullieni</i> male and female samples	101

LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

µg	microgram
µl	microlitre
pmol	picmole
10X	ten times
1X	one time
A	adenosine
bp	base pair
C	cytosine
dATP	deoxyadenosine triphosphate
dCTP	deoxycytidine triphosphate
ddH ₂ O	double distilled water
dGTP	deoxyguanosine triphosphate
DNA	deoxyribonucleic acid
dNTPs	deoxyribonucleotide triphosphate
dTTP	deoxythymidine triphosphate
EDTA	ethylenediamine tetraacetic acid
g	gram
G	guanosine
h	hour
kb	kilobase
kg	kilogram
M	molar
mg	milligram
mg/ml	milligram per millilitre

MgCl ₂	magnesium chloride
min	minute
mL	millilitre
mM	millimolar
mm	millimetre
ng	nanogram
nm	nanometre
°C	degree Celsius
OD	optical density
PCR	polymerase chain reaction
RNA	ribonucleotide acid
s	second
T	thymine
TBE	tris-borate-EDTA buffer
U	unit
UV	ultraviolet
V	volt

CHAPTER1

INTRODUCTION

Species, which are facing a very high risk of extinction in the near future, are considered as endangered, this status prompted conservationist and government agencies to rescue them. *Probarbus jullieni* is a fish species found in the rivers of Malaysia. This has been listed as being endangered in the International Union of the Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources Red Data Book (Poulsen *et al.*, 2004). Currently, in Malaysia there are two distinct populations of *P. jullieni*, which have undergone domestication and breeding in the Batu Berendam Station and the Tarat Inland Fisheries hatchery in Sarawak (Bhassu and Zulkafli, 2009).

Genetic diversity is one of the most important factors in the preservation of endangered species. This is due to the effects of genetic diversity on the adaptive flexibility of species to physical and biological environmental changes. The genetic identification and discrimination of a species is a fundamental requirement in any successful conservation program (Reed and Frankham, 2003).

Little is known about the level of genetic variation and population structure of *P. jullieni* (Bhassu and Zulkafli, 2009). Therefore, it is important to evaluate the genetic makeup of *P. jullieni* populations in order to develop breeding policies to achieve better performance. In this respect, genetic markers are effective tools to assess the genetic diversity and population structure. For example, DNA marker-based

polymorphisms can detect higher levels of genetic variations compared to isozymes and morphological markers. Amongst all the different DNA markers, microsatellite markers are currently the most popular tool used to evaluate genetic variability. It is applied widely in endangered species because of the typically high levels of variability detected, coupled with the requirement for only small amounts of tissues. It is a co-dominant nuclear DNA marker inherited in a Mendelian fashion (Leite *et al.*, 2007).

DNA markers which are tightly linked to the sex-determination genes provide tools for examining sex linkage aimed to control the sex ratio in breeding programs according to the need. Nevertheless, there is no available report on sex determination of *P. jullieni* using molecular markers.

Therefore in this study the objectives were:

1. To detect genetic variation in hatchery bred *P. jullieni* using microsatellite markers which were developed for *P. jullieni* and also cross-amplification of microsatellite primers developed for closely related species.
2. To identify and isolate new single locus microsatellite markers for *P. jullieni*.
3. To identify a sex-specific genomic DNA marker in *P. jullieni* by testing sex-associated markers of other fish species.

CHAPTER 2

LITERATURE REVIEW

2.1 *Probarbus jullieni*

2.1.1 Taxonomy

According to International Union for the Conservation of Nature and Natural resources (IUCN) 2008 Red List, the classification of “*Probarbus jullieni*” is as follows:

Kingdom:	Animalia
Subkingdom:	Bilateria
Phylum:	Chordata
Subphylum:	Vertebra
Class:	Osteichthyes
Subclass:	Actinopterygii
Cohort:	Clupeocephala
Order:	Cypriniformes
Family:	Cyprinidae
Genus:	<i>Probarbus</i>
Species:	<i>Probarbus jullieni</i>

The genus *Probarbus* contains three species *P. labeamajor*, *P. labeaminor* and *P. jullieni*. *Probarbus jullieni*, has different names, which are Jullien’s Golden Carp, Barbeau De Jullien and Seven-stripped Barb. It is locally known in Malaysia as Carpillia Ikan Temoleh and its Fish Base name is Isok barb.

2.1.2 Habitat and distribution

This freshwater ray-finned fish species is distributed in Southeast Asia, Chao Phraya and Mekong basins of Indo-China and Thailand, and the Pahang and Perak basins of Malaysia. It is also found in Cambodia, Laos and Vietnam (Roberts, 1992).

2.1.3 Morphology and biology

P. jullieni is large, attaining 150 cm in length and 70 kg in weight; it lives mainly in the mainstream of large rivers or lakes with moving water, it feeds on aquatic plants, insects and shelled mollusk. Adults and larger juveniles of *P. jullieni* usually have much more red and sometimes yellow coloration on the head, body and fins (Figure 1) than the other two *Probarbus* species. *P. jullieni* is a migratory species. Trophic migrations occur throughout its occurrence range and take place mainly at the onset of the food season and are mainly undertaken by juveniles and sub adults. It has been reported to migrate together with *P. labeamajor* and *P. labeaminor*.



Figure 2.1: Morphology of *P. jullieni* (lateral view)